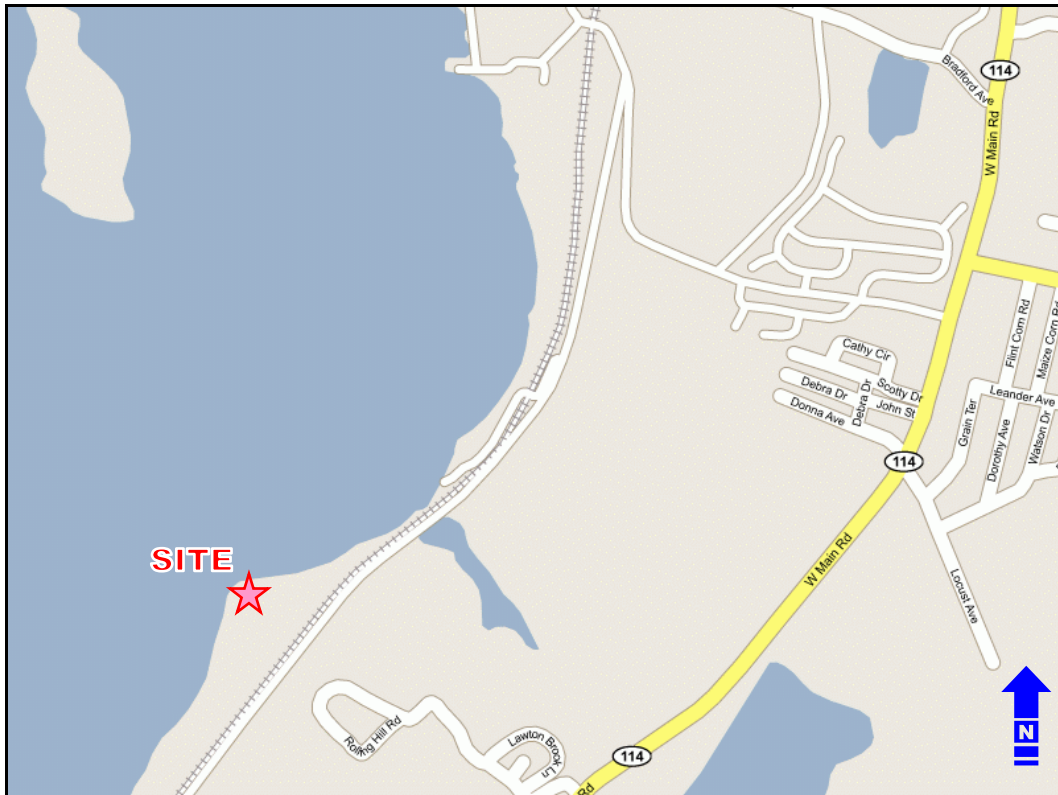


Site No. 10

CARR POINT

Portsmouth
Burma Road



Site Description

Location Assessment

Land Location. The Carr Point Recreation Area is located along Burma Road in Portsmouth, which runs along the East Passage coastline approximately 1.5 miles west of State Route 114 (West Main Road). The Old Colony & Newport Scenic Railroad runs adjacent to Burma Road for most of its length, though its use is presently limited to entertainment ventures (dinner and sightseeing trains). As noted, uses of the site itself consist primarily of outdoor recreation activities including camping, picnicking, and athletics, all of which are compatible with fishing use of the shoreline. Burma Road is also signed as a bike route with ample paved shoulders to support this use.

The site is located within the upper reach of Naval Station Newport facilities which extend from Newport proper north into Middletown and Portsmouth. Surrounding land uses are mostly associated with the Navy, including a naval housing complex directly southeast of the site and offices/facilities of the Raytheon Company (a major naval contractor) along Route 114 to the east. In discussing the Carr Point site with anglers at other locations, many indicated that they were unaware that Burma Road was publicly accessible. The Carr Point Recreation Area is also located within the planning area of *West Side Master Plan* recently developed by Aquidneck Island Planning Commission (see Site Evaluation No. 11, Burma Road Middletown). Given that it is an active and established use of the Naval Station, the *West Side Master Plan* does not provide recommendations for future use of this site.

Environmental Constraints and Permitting. Coastal features at Carr Point consist of the cobble beach and the embankment between the beach and the upland recreation area (see Photo 7). The upland edge is mowed to within approximately 6 feet of the embankment. Coastal waters at this location are classified by the CRMC as Type 4 (Multipurpose) waters, and there is the possibility that areas of eelgrass are in the vicinity.

Facilities Assessment

As evident by the photographs provided, the Carr Point Recreation Area currently offers outstanding general recreation facilities. Though the site does not have any fishing-specific features or amenities, the natural shoreline can be directly accessed from the picnic areas (see Photos 3, 4) via a short embankment separating the beach from upland recreation facilities. The one angler present at the time of visit noted the quality of fishing and the natural, secluded character as primary reasons for frequenting the site. While this upland/beach transition is readily negotiable by foot, the embankment and the cobble beach itself likely prohibit handicap usability of the site for fishing. Interior facilities are clean and well-maintained, however a moderate amount of washed up debris and litter was observed along the length of the shoreline at this location.

Landside, camping facilities occupy at the southerly half of the site near the Burma Road entrance, while facilities for active recreation (picnic areas, softball fields, volleyball court) are situated to the north of the site near Carr Point proper. A separate gravel parking lot for the active recreation facilities area (Photo 2) provides good capacity (60+ vehicles); cars were also observed parking directly at the picnic areas (Photo 5) as well.

The Morale Welfare & Recreation (MWR) Department was contacted regarding use and management of the Carr Point Recreation Area. The MWR indicated that this facility is for use only by Navy personnel and civilians employed by the Department of Defense. The area is not posted as such however; the site was readily accessible at the time of visit and park offices were closed. Active recreation facilities are open seasonally (Memorial Day - Labor Day), during which the parking area is closed and gated at dusk. Group use of the picnic/party areas is by reservation only and requires a fee.

Existing Site Conditions

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Existing Fishing Facilities</i>			X	
<i>Parking</i>			X	
<i>Compatibility with Surrounding Land / Water Uses</i>			X	
<i>Statewide Transportation Accessibility / Public Transit</i>		X		
<i>Site Aesthetics</i>			X	
	Low	Medium	High	
<i>Water Quality (see Appendix B)</i>			X	

Priority for Capital Improvements: **Low**

Owned by the U.S. Navy, the Carr Point Recreation Area is managed by the MWR for the purpose of providing viable recreational opportunities for navy personnel. Offering high quality, well-maintained facilities, as well as ample space and excellent views of the East Passage, the site appears to be more than adequately serving the needs of its intended user base. In consideration of the above, it would be both inappropriate and unfeasible for the State to impose development of public fishing access facilities at this shoreline location. While mid- and upper-Aquidneck Island could stand to benefit from improved public access to the East Passage shoreline, other locations in the vicinity (including the Burma Road Site - No. 11) which are better suited for this purpose should be investigated for potential development.



Photos 1A and 1B. Main Entrance to Carr Point Recreation Area along Burma Road. The RV camping area is visible on the right.



Photo 2. Entrance to dirt parking lot for day use of recreation area.



Photo 3. Carr Point Recreation Area facilities and shoreline looking northwest from softball bleachers.



Photo 4. Recreational facilities including picnic shelters, barbecue pits, and a volleyball court.



Photo 5. Interior recreation facilities looking south from near shoreline.



Photo 6. Carr Point shoreline looking north to Carr Point proper. Lights for the softball field are visible on the right.



Photo 7. Fishing along cobble beach at Carr Point proper looking west.



Photo 8. "Swimming and shellfishing prohibited" sign near camping area. Though this sign was posted long ago and may no longer be accurate, it still serves to dissuade visitors from fishing at the site.